

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies like Sinclair control the airwaves to serve their own interests, rather than providing fair and impartial news coverage, they do not serve the public interest. Instead they jeopardize our ability as citizens to get the information we need so that we can participate in the democratic process in an informed and meaningful way.

Also, it is important that our local news stations produce and air substantive news about issues that matter to us, with real people from our own communities instead of something produced at "News Central" far away.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.